

and bridge-builder, someone other Assembly members turned to when seeking to resolve a conflict.

**Sports:** African Americans have played an extremely influential role in the development of professional sports. Among the most prominent, Tony Gwynn has demonstrated excellence on and off the field. A native of Long Beach, Gwynn played baseball for the San Diego Padres for 20 years.

In addition to his incredible skill on the diamond, Gwynn became a sports hero for youth across the nation. Demonstrating sportsmanship, community service, and athleticism, Gwynn has won numerous community awards for his dedication and activism. He was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in 1999.

California can also be very proud of its local African American heroes—those who often go unrecognized by the national community.

Improving the community relations in her native neighborhood of Watts, in Los Angeles, has been a lifelong commitment for “Sweet” Alice Harris. “Sweet Alice,” as she is affectionately called, is the founder of Parents of Watts, a program designed to encourage children to stay in school and away from drugs.

Today, Parents of Watts has grown into numerous organizations that provide emergency food and shelter for the homeless, offer health seminars, provide legal and drug counseling, and operate a program for unwed mothers.

Sweet Alice is truly one of the best known and most influential community leaders of her generation. Her lifetime of service and commitment to disadvantaged youth stems from her early years as a homeless teenage parent at age 16. In March of 2002, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante honored Sweet Alice with the Lt. Governor’s Woman of the Year award for her tireless efforts for providing Los Angeles youth with a fighting chance in their community, a dedication that has spanned nearly 40 years.

This Black History Month, I would like to applaud all African American heroes who have overcome great adversity and risen to incredible heights of success. Many of these heroes have come from humble beginnings, making their successes and contributions to their communities all the more remarkable.

I look forward to the coming year in which we will, without a doubt, continue to see African Americans succeed and make a difference, both in their communities and in our country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

• **Mr. NELSON** of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate and honor the achievements of African-Americans as the celebration of Black History Month draws to a close. I know

my colleagues join me in remembering the sacrifices and contributions African-Americans have made to our country. From laying the foundation of the United States Capitol, to creating the design of the Nation’s capital, a feat accomplished by noted scientist Benjamin Banneker, composing great music and writing classic literature, African-Americans’ influence on our society and culture is immeasurable.

So many of our modern conveniences are due to the innovation and imagination of great African-American inventors like Garrett A. Morgan, creator of the modern stop light and the gas mask, which our Nation’s forces may be utilizing in combat in Iraq. The great scientist, George Washington Carver, took tiny peanuts and engineered myriad uses for them. Pioneering astronauts like Guion Bluford, and most recently, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, whom we lost in the *Columbia* tragedy, undertook experiments in space that will advance our technological and scientific knowledge, expanding our horizons to space and beyond.

It is only fitting that we take time to remember these and other numerous accomplishments. Our Nation, and indeed the world, have benefited from the selfless sacrifices African-Americans have made in service to our country. We must continue to work to ensure that all African-Americans are afforded the opportunity to participate in, and realize, the American Dream. In the words, of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.: “We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” Indeed, the history and experiences of African-Americans have helped shape America and will continue to do so for generations to come.●

##### CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

• **Mr. GREGG.** Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Concord, the Capital City of New Hampshire. As the United States prepares this year to observe the 227th anniversary of our independence, the citizens of Concord will be celebrating the City’s 150th birthday. It is therefore timely and appropriate that we recognize this great American community.

Concord runs eight miles from north to south and covers almost 39,000 acres. However, this geographic description fails to illustrate its unique position in New Hampshire and U.S. history. First settled in the early 1700’s as the Plantation of Penacook, an Indian word describing the serpentine but beautiful meanderings of the Merrimack River, the town was later renamed Rumford in 1734 and then Concord in 1765. In 1853, 150 years ago, the people living there incorporated Concord as a city. In 1788, the leaders of New Hampshire approved the new federal constitution in the Old North Meeting House in Concord and, thus, New Hampshire became the ninth and ratifying state of the

original thirteen. Since 1809, Concord has served as the Capital of New Hampshire and, naturally, has been the heart of political life in our state. However, the City has a proud record for being the center of commerce and transportation as well. One of its best known industries was the Abbott-Downing Company which shipped thousands of its famous stagecoaches and wagons all over the world. In addition, the granite from Concord became the cornerstone for buildings throughout the United States. Furthermore, the City was the northern hub for the railroad industry in the first half of the 20th century.

Of course, we cannot talk about this city without praising its most distinctive feature: the people of Concord. In this community, the citizens value the importance of helping one’s neighbor and, thus, have long been responsible for strengthening the New Hampshire way of life. They have never been restrained in lending their talents and energy to any noble cause. The experiences of two Concord residents in the Civil War exemplifies this ethical code. On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 troops to fight to preserve the Union. Within hours of learning of this announcement, Concord Police Officer Edward Sturtevant enlisted in the Army. Because he was such a natural leader, he was eventually promoted to major and later gave his life at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Harriet Patience Dame also greatly contributed during this time. At the age of 46, she offered her services as an Army Nurse. From the time of her enlistment until well after the war ended, she cared for the injured, the sick and the dying without taking one day’s furlough or one day’s sick leave. An exhausting schedule to be sure but one that fits the character of Concord.

This spirit continues into modern times and may be best expressed by Concord school teacher Christa McAuliffe as she was preparing to become the first teacher in space: Her message “I touch the future, I teach” perfectly captures the dedication which characterizes the people of this community. With that, I am proud to honor and salute them as they celebrate the 150th birthday of Concord, New Hampshire, the Capital City of the Granite State.●

##### HONORING DOROTHY GONZALEZ

• **Mr. JOHNSON.** Mr. President, I rise today to honor the late Dorothy Gonzalez, of Rapid City, SD. On February 17, Oglala Lakota College’s East Wakpamni District College Center in Batesland, SD, was renamed in Dorothy Gonzalez’s honor. This is an honor she richly deserves.

Dorothy had a distinguished 28 year career as an educator and administrator at Oglala Lakota College. In 1975, she became East Wakpamni District College Center’s first director. She served as East Wakpamni District